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Aberdeen, Miss.

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## HARBOLD'S HOG RANCH

Aberdeen, Mississippi

Will buy all kinds of hogs, any quantity at the market price.

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We will save you money on  
**GROCERIES AND FEED**  
A Trial will Convince You  
**GOTT'S' GROCERY**



**Maier Jewelry Co.**  
JEWELERS & OPTICIANS  
ABERDEEN, MISS.

## General Live Stock in Monroe County Mississippi

When the writer removed to Aberdeen in 1911, he soon became convinced that Monroe County, particularly the Prairie or Lime Belt part of it, had a wonderful resource in its grasses and hay. Alfalfa, sweet clover, red clover, Johnson grass and lespedeza (Japan Clover) grow for years without re-seeding, and produce large yields. The pastures consist of white clover, bur clover, hop clover, and other legumes, in the spring, Bermuda and paspalum in the summer, and lespedeza in the fall—all growing on the same ground in season, without re-seeding.

For many years, farmers have fought grass in the cultivation of crops. But where Nature has bestowed such a priceless gift, it seems a sin to fight it.

How best to convert this natural resource into money was the question. We had no creamery. We were advised not to organize one with less than 500 good cows. Our people knew nothing about the care and feeding of milk cows, the use of separators, and, in fact, did not want any job that required them to work not only every day, but twice every day. Hence no one at that time could be interested in the dairy proposition.

Nearly all Southern territory was then infested with Texas cattle ticks. But Monroe and other North-East Mississippi counties were dipping cattle regularly; the ticks were soon eradicated, and it became "free territory." Its cattle, therefore, when shipped to the markets, were not placed in quarantine and sold only for immediate slaughter, but could be re-shipped as stockers or feeders. On account of the low grade, however, they were not in demand for such purposes. The Legislature of Mississippi has since passed a state-wide Dipping Bill, so that all counties not already free (only a few in South Mississippi) will soon become entirely free of the tick, and no part of the state will be quarantined against.

There were no registered bulls, nor even good grades of the beef type in the county. Nearly all of the cattle were of the "home-made" variety, a mixture of Jersey and brindle predominating. In certain sections there were some traces of the Short Horns, a few bulls of that breed having formerly been used.

In 1912, being timid about starting out on an expensive scale, the writer purchased a lot of native heifers throughout the county, at a low price, selecting those that showed as little Jersey blood as possible. The first year we used a registered Short Horn Bull, and later three registered Hereford Bulls at a time. We intend to use hereafter only Polled Hereford bulls, having several polled ancestors on both sides. By culling out and selling each year the cows and calves of bad color, the herd has developed into one apparently of pure-bred white-faces, both in color and in conformation.

Others did likewise, some shipping in grade heifers. Bulls of all the beef types are used; so that today Monroe County has a great many herds of high-grade beef cattle—several pure-bred herds. As in all sections, the Hereford, the Angus, and the Short Horn each have their supporters. All do well, both on pasture and in the feed lot. It is purely a matter of individual taste.

The cheapest gains by cattle are made on cotton seed meal, fed with cotton seed hulls, and corn or sorghum silage. The meal and hulls can be bought at the local cotton seed oil mill—no freight to pay; and either silage can be produced cheaper than in the North. The climate is not so cold that half the feed is required to produce heat, but is mild enough for most of the feed to be converted into flesh. When on full feed, the steers really do better out in the open, enjoying the sunshine, than they do in a barn. When cotton-seed meal (the cheapest of all protein feeds) is used, the resulting manure is rich in nitrogen, the element most needed by Southern soils. As about 85% of the fertilizing element of the feed passes through the animal to the ground, land upon which cattle have been fed, is benefited for years.

From about October 10th to Christmas, stock is allowed to run on the alfalfa fields. The damage to the alfalfa is very slight. Where ricks of low grade hay are left in the fields, the cattle balance their feed, so that there is but little danger of bloat.

The corn and cotton stalk fields also afford excellent grazing in winter. Cotton stalks contain about the same percentage of protein as do alfalfa, lespedeza, or pea-vines, but, of course, have more woody fibre, and are not so digestible. Cattle winter well in the fields on cotton-stalks alone. Velvet beans should be planted with the corn. The vines completely cover the stalks, shade the ground, and prevent evaporation. The beans are contained in hard-shelled pods—will not pop out, germinate or rot in the field, but will remain all winter. The stock will eat them all, even picking the pods out of the ground. The cost of the seed for planting is about 40 cents per acre, and no extra cultivation is required. In addition to the feed produced, the humus resulting from the dense foliage, and the nitrogen, costing nothing to distribute, benefit the land as much as would many loads of manure.

The larger cattle and the fed cattle are shipped to East St. Louis, being in transit less than 24 hours. For calves and yearlings of the better quality, there is a large demand by buyers from Tennessee and Kentucky, where high-priced lands make the breeding of cattle less profitable. They have found by experience that the Mississippi-bred cattle do better in that climate than those bred west of the Mississippi river.

Mules and horses develop good size, bone, and muscle on the lime lands of North-East Mississippi. In

fact, it is the opinion of many that there is more money in grazing mule colts than cattle. This is undoubtedly true when the colts can be purchased cheaply enough, as has been the case in Missouri for the last few years. There is virtually no mortality among young males. They never die, and except for an occasional injury from barbed wire fences, nothing ever happens to them. It costs less to pasture and less to winter a mule colt than a steer.

There is and always will be a good market for mules in the Delta section of Mississippi, and in other parts of the South, where they must of necessity stick to cotton, as they are not so blessed with hay and grass as is the lime belt of North-East Mississippi.

Percheron, Norman, Clydesdale, and other large horses are not affected by being changed to this country, and readily become acclimated.

It is well-known that every lime-soil country ultimately becomes a prosperous live-stock country, especially for horses and mules, because the lime is essential to the production of bone. It requires no prophetic vision to see that when enough farmers move into this country who are accustomed to using and properly caring for large mares, this will be one of the best and most prosperous mule-breeding and developing sections of the United States.

Hogs, on account of climatic conditions, put on greater gains, per pound of feed, here than in the North. The breeder has no trouble in raising two full litters a year, and expensive houses to prevent crowding or freezing in winter are unnecessary. Lincoln Harbold's Hog Ranch at Aberdeen, furnishes a ready cash market, every day in the year for hogs in any quantity, from one to a car-load, or for anything that a hog will eat. As he sells to serum-plants he gets a better price than the ordinary shipper; hence, can pay a better price.

It is the first 100 pounds that can always be put on the cheapest, and no where cheaper than here, with our good pastures and cheap feeds. The small farmer can make good, quick money by selling a crop of pigs to Harbold every six months, just as the next crop comes on, devoting himself to breeding, and letting the finishing be done by an experienced feeder.

With good hog-tight fences, good water, and good pastures, this country is a veritable "hog-heaven." Grazing in the winter on rape and rye; in the spring on the various clovers—fed sorghum came in the summer while on the pastures—given the run of the fields in the fall, in which has been planted corn, peas, soy beans, velvet beans, peanuts, or sweet potatoes—receiving the skim-milk from the dairy, or butter milk from the Creamery—pigs bring in a sure, steady income.

Sheep do well on any land in the county—a great many are here now, and the number will rapidly increase, as we learn better how to handle them. Spring lambs grow rapidly where they have access to alfalfa, green or cured. Wintering sheep is no problem, and is but little expense. If some practical sheep-raisers would take advantage of the opportunities here offered, set the example, and show us how sheep should be handled for the greatest profit—in but a few years, the rolling lands and valleys of Monroe county would be dotted with large flocks of the best wool producers.

The writer has never quite understood why goats are not more in demand at the stock yards. Few can tell the difference in taste of lamb and kid. You do not have to raise goats, they raise themselves. It costs about as much to raise a goat as it does to raise a chicken. They are browsers rather than grazers, and are worth their market value just to keep down the weeds and bushes in the pasture.

For general livestock and dairying, it can well be said that the Lime Belt of North East Mississippi offers untold opportunities. We have the soil, we have the climate, and we have the rainfall. Purest water flows from springs or artesian wells, in some sections, and is easily obtained from shallow depths by windmills and gasoline engines in others. The pastures are better than any, with the possible exception of the blue-grass region of Kentucky. For hay, it has the world beaten, as alfalfa, sweet clover, red clover, Johnson grass and lespedeza seldom have to be re-seeded. The winters are mild—expensive buildings are not necessary. The markets are exceptionally good. All livestock does well. The three banks of Aberdeen, each with abundant capital and resources, stand ready to assist every worthy enterprise.

The trouble has been that our people (until the advent of the boll weevil) have always made a living too easily raising cotton, and are perhaps too easily contented. The better educated have taken too much to the professions, leaving agricultural and stock-raising, for the large part, to the tenants or share-croppers. The truth is, few people anywhere will work more than is necessary. With us, the season between hickory nuts and dew-berries is too short, and no one ever suffers for lack of food or heat. The summers do not get as intensely hot here as in the northern or western states, and sunstroke is unknown.

We need a new civilization, experienced in live stock and dairying, to join forces with us, to teach us the "how to do it," and share the prosperity that is awaiting all of us. While Northern lands have depreciated in price more per acre than ours ever sold for, the difference in price between theirs and ours is still too great. The intrinsic value of our best lands, compared with theirs, is in our favor. Either the price of theirs must come down, or ours must go up.

Eugene Lanier Sykes,



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Delicious **Coca-Cola** Exhilarating  
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Aberdeen

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Pays **4** Per cent

On Savings Accounts and Certificates of Deposits

Your Account is solicited. Special attention given to accounts of Dairy-men and farmers.

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J. C. McFARLANE, JR., PRESIDENT  
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